c)   transferring the preform to a draw furnace of a draw apparatus wherein a second temperature profile within the draw furnace is substantially identical to the first temperature profile.

(Twice Amended) 14. A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform, comprising the steps of:

a)   heating a consolidated optical fiber preform within a chamber of a heating furnace having a first temperature profile to allow a gob to drop under the influence of heat and gravity,

b)   removing additional glass from the preform in the heating furnace until a draw tip having a pre-optimized tip shape is formed wherein the pre-optimized tip shape includes a tip taper having a ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change over the tip length, of between about 6 to about 9, and

c)   transferring the preform to a draw furnace of a draw apparatus wherein a second temperature profile within the draw furnace is substantially identical to the first temperature profile.

(Twice Amended) 15. The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of heating includes heating the heating furnace to a temperature between about 1800 °C and 2000 °C.

(Twice Amended) 16. The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of heating includes heating the heating furnace to a temperature between about 1900 °C and 1950 °C.

(Twice Amended) 17. A method of making an optical fiber preform, comprising the steps of:

prior to drawing optical fiber from the preform in a draw furnace, heating a tip of the preform in a pregobbing heating furnace separate from the draw furnace to form a pre-optimized draw tip on the preform, said pre-optimized draw tip after being formed having a tip taper with a ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change over the tip length, of between about 5 to about 12, and causing a temperature profile of the pregobbing furnace to be substantially equal to a temperature profile of the draw furnace.

(Twice Amended) 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the pre-optimized draw tip after being formed includes a tip taper having a ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change across the tip length, of between about 6 to about 9.

2